



Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

4. Jembatan Kota Intan, Chicken Market Bridge Dirk Teeuwen, Holland

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Asian elegance, photo DT

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Chicken Market Bridge in 1948 - Research Dirk Teeuwen

Batavia/Jakarta, Chicken Market Bridge, Kali Besar 1948

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Introduction

You leave Hotel "Rivier" now and you are going to climb "Jembatan Kota Intan", which means "Old Diamant Bridge" in English. Formerly it was called "Hoenderpassarbrug" in Dutch, in English "Chicken Market Bridge". Why did the Indonesians change the name? No idea! Let's have a look from the drawbridge to the south first and then to the north. However, Chicken Market Bridge is very ramshackle from time to time; so, maybe sometimes, it could be wise to use another bridge, to climb the bridge just a couple of meters next to the drawbridge. In our audio tour we tell you about the drawbridge and its southern vicinity. The northern vicinity comes next on page 9. Have a look at the pictures first, because the audio tour asks a lot of your imaginativeness, your historical empathy!

List of pictures

- 1. Jembata Kota Intan, Old Diamant Bridge in 2006
Formerly "Hoenderpassarbrug" in Dutch, in English Chicken Market Bridge.**
- 1a. Kali Besar and Chicken Market Bridge circa 1920, to the north**
- 1b. Circa 1930**
- 2. Kali Besar to the south in 1860
The original picture was taken by the Batavia photographers Woodbury and Page. Sailing was possible up to Jalan Kopi Bridge only.**
- 3. Kali Besar Timur/East to the South in 1750
Left the New Dutch Protestant Church, 1732-1808.**
- 4. A detail of Kali Besar East in 1770
The New Dutch Protestant Church 1732-1808**
- 5. Kali Besar, 1911
You discover sailing ships and flat-bottomed boats.**
- 6. Chicken Market Bridge in 1998
The water level is much higher on picture 7.**
- 7. Chicken Market Bridge in 1936.
The buildings under de black stars are the old Batavia Customs Offices and their storage rooms (until about 1860).**
- 8. The old Batavia customs offices (until about 1860)
Probably a picture from 1895.**
- 9. Batavia Castle, 1661
A canalized Ciliwung from south to north, Kali Besar in 1661, in the centre Batavia Castle. This market is now, more or less, the location of Hotel Batavia "Rivier".**

Pictures



1 Jembata Kota Intan, Old Diamant Bridge in 2006



1a Circa 1920



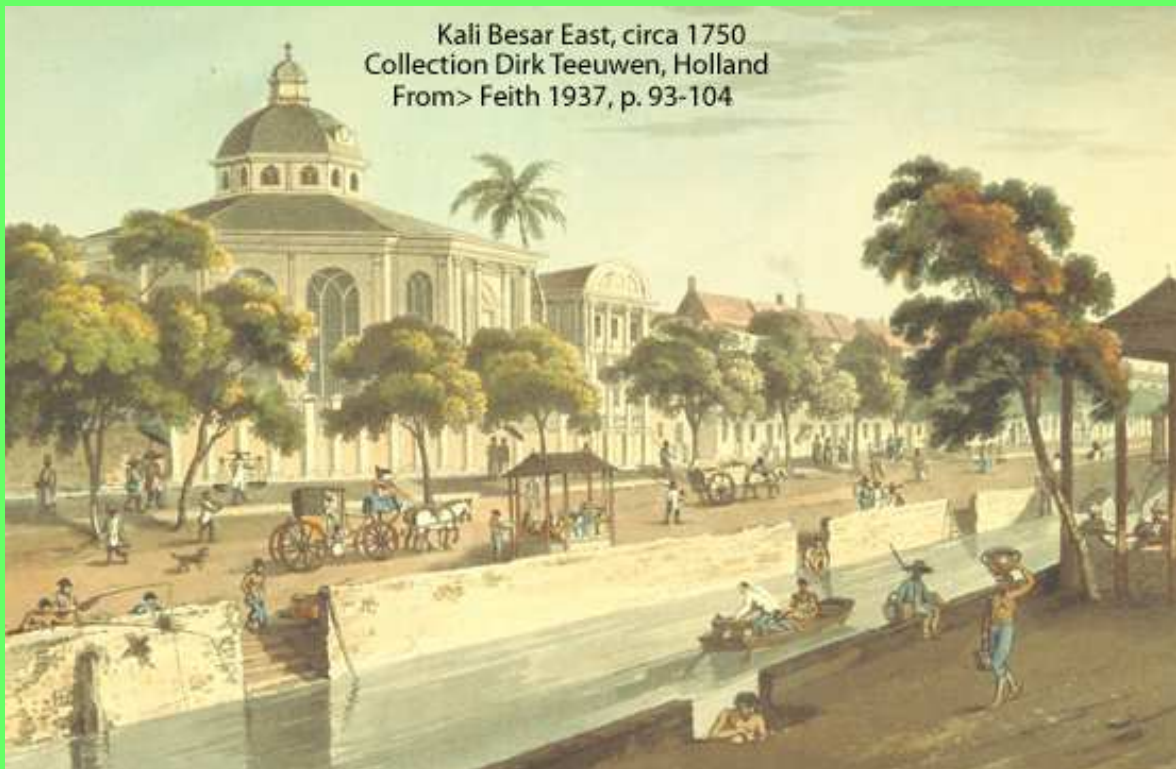
1b Circa 1930

Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
From > Yearbook Batavia 1927
Kali Besar to the south, 1860



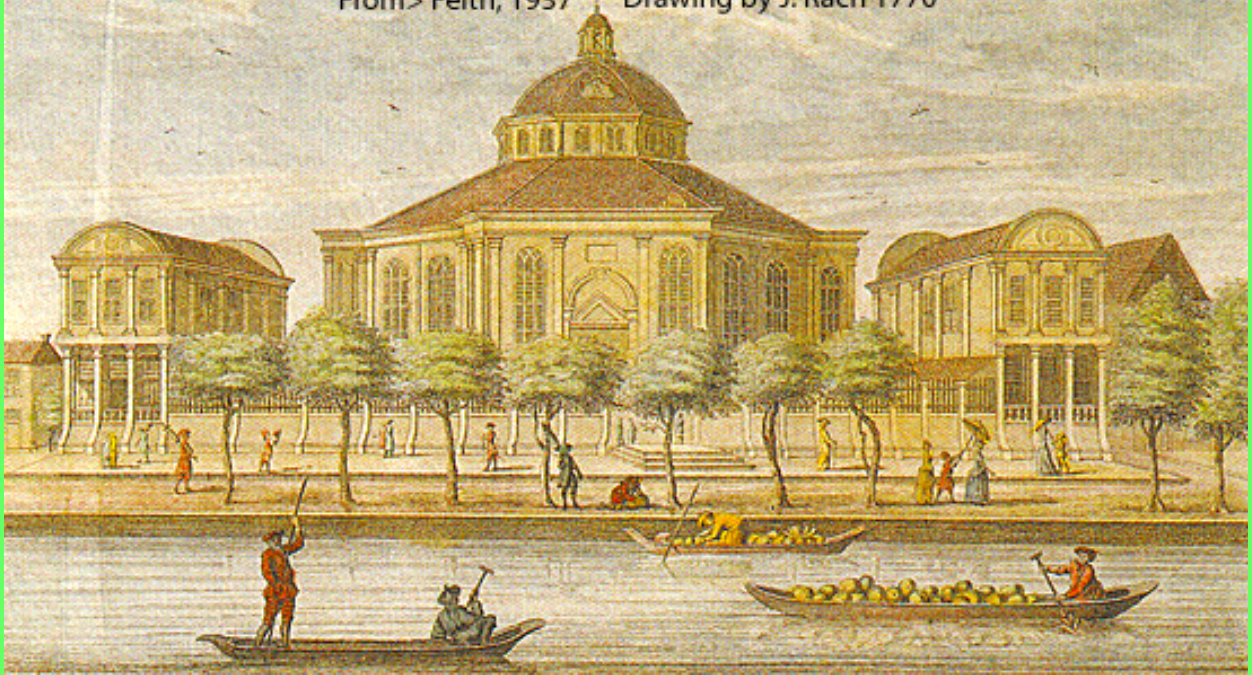
2 Kali Besar circa 1860

Kali Besar East, circa 1750
Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
From > Feith 1937, p. 93-104



3 Kali Besar circa 1750

Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
Batavia-Jakarta, the New Dutch Church 1770
From > Feith, 1937 Drawing by J. Rach 1770



4 Kali Besar circa 1770

Batavia
Kali-Besar
Postcard collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
Kali Besar to the north 1911



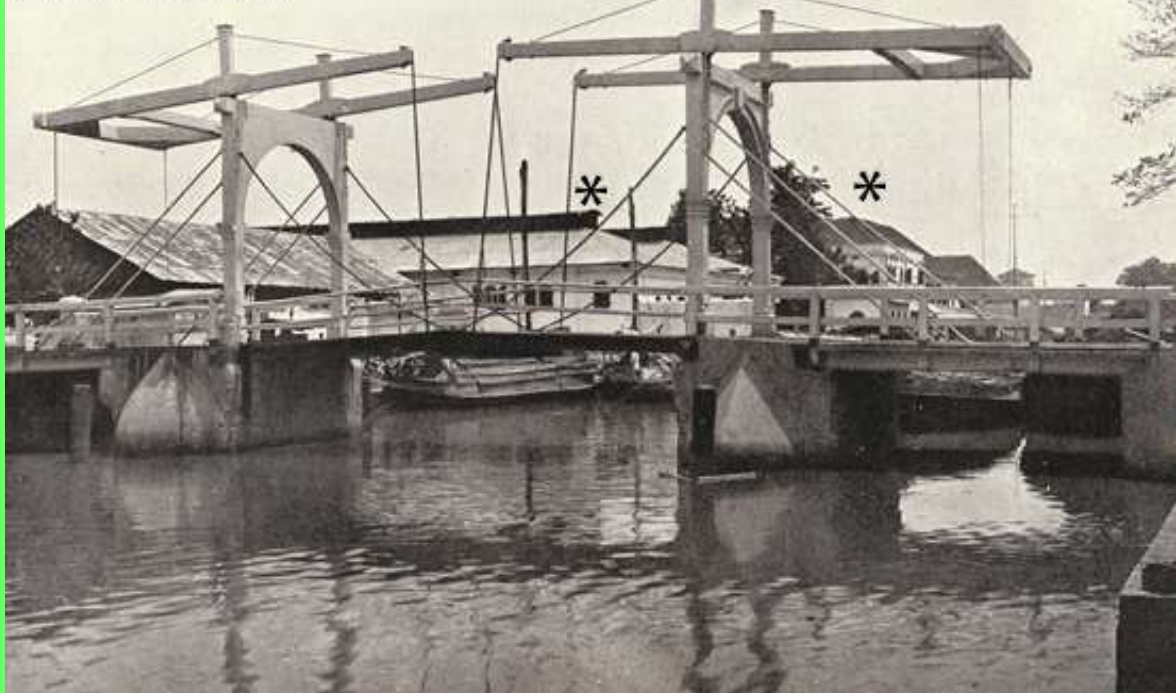
5 Kali Besar circa 1911

Photo Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
Chicken Market Bridge to the north (sea side)



6 Kali Besar, Dutch drawing bridge 2002

Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
From. Elout 1936, p. 20



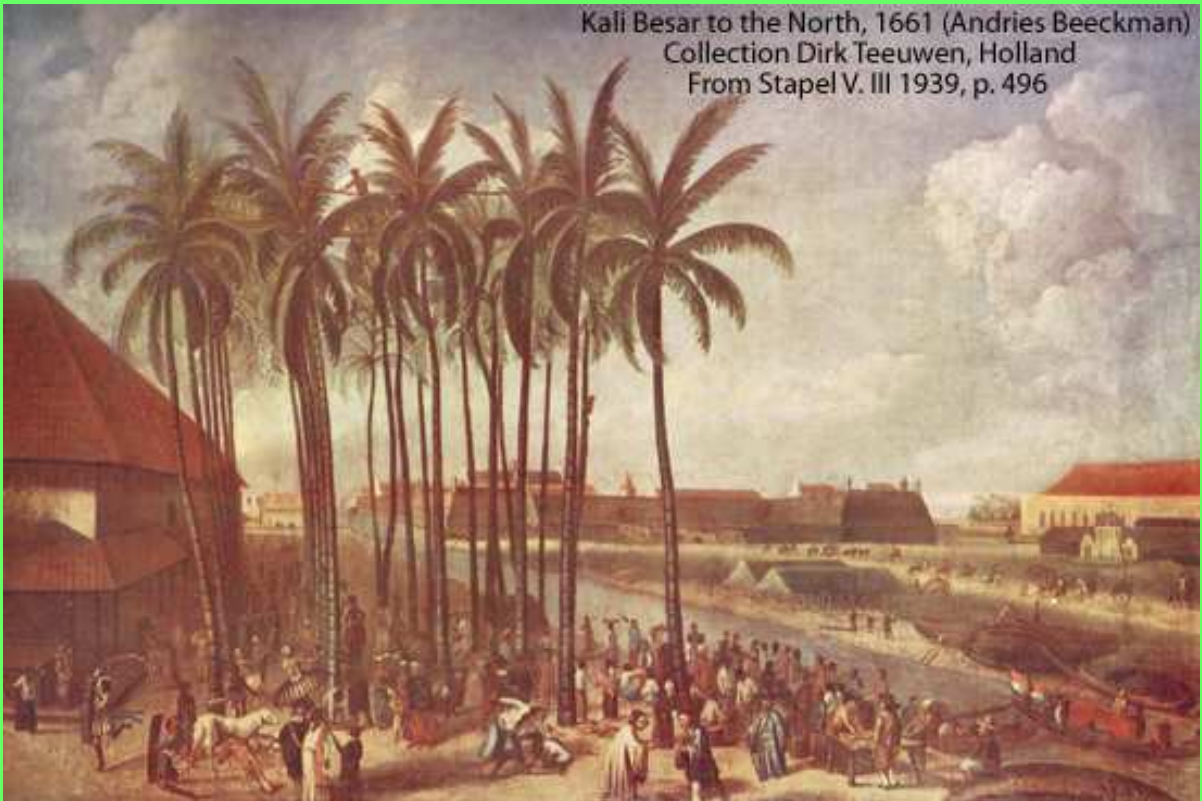
7. Same bridge circa 1930, see image 1b

Postcard collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
Batavia, Kali Besar West, customs office, 19th century



8 Customs office, Kali Besar circa 1870

Kali Besar to the North, 1661 (Andries Beeckman)
Collection Dirk Teeuwen, Holland
From Stapel V. III 1939, p. 496



9 Kali Besar to the north in 1661

Tour

You have taken position on Chicken Market Bridge. Chicken Market Bridge is the only surviving Dutch drawbridge in Jakarta. See pictures 1, 1a, 1b, 6 and 7.

South from the bridge (no, dummy: don't look at the nearby railway bridge, south is the other way) you can see colonial architecture, left and right. From here you can see also Jalan Kopi Bridge (once Middelpunt Bridge), 500 meters, or so, to the south. There has always been a bridge on the location of Jalan Kopi Bridge, so far we know. Jalan Kopi Bridge was named "Middelpuntbrug" (picture 2) in Dutch, "Halfway Bridge" in English. Remarkable is the following. It was never possible to open the roadway of this bridge to facilitate shipping. Never! It has never been a drawbridge! The background story could be interesting.

Kali Besar has been Batavia's Inner Harbour. Sea vessels were too big to call at the Old Batavia Harbour Canal/Sunda Kelapa. There has always been a lot of silting up along the entire northern coast of Java. Such silting limited the capacity of the Harbour Canal. Because of that goods were transhipped from sea vessels into smaller seaworthy ships some way offshore. These smaller ships were able to reach the Old Batavia Harbour Canal as well as the colonial Customs Office north from Chicken Market Bridge. These small ships were also suitable to navigate in the canal of Kali Besar, the Inner Harbour. The sea vessels offshore depended on docks on islands in front of the coast of Batavia: on islands like Onrust (in English Commotion Island), now Pulau Kapal; like Edam (Edam Island after a town in Holland), now Pulau Damar Besar; like Kerkhof (in English Cemetery Island), now Pulau Kelor, etc. It is possible to book daytrips to these islands.

However, we told you that Jalan Kopi Bridge - the old Halfway Bridge - has never been a drawbridge. The small ships sailing from offshore into the inner harbour could not pass this Bridge. But why? To prevent smuggling in the first place. In front of the Customs Office (once north-west from Chicken Market Bridge) goods - meant for southern Batavia and specially for the Glodok Quarter (Batavia's China Town) - had to be transhipped into rather flat smaller vessels. These flat vessels were driven to their destination by manpower, by men with a pole.

Stay on Chicken Market Bridge for another while and turn to the north, to the sea (to the railway bridge). Maybe it is wise to have a look at our pictures again.

North from the bridge you see a mess, I know. Left from you, Kali Besar West leads to the north: to old warehouses of the Dutch East-India Company (VOC) and to Sunda Kelapa/the Old Dutch Harbour Canal. Some of the VOC-warehouses are very attractively renovated. To reach this renovated area you have to walk through two underpasses: one under a railway and another one under a toll road. Warning! Don't do it, because a lot of riffraff is hanging around the underpasses. If you want to visit this renovated area: see our Tour 1 "Sunda Kelapa and vicinity".

The location of the main colonial Customs Office of Batavia (picture 8), called "Grote Boom" in Dutch ("Large Tree" in English) was near the western attachment of the railway bridge (that is the attachment left from you). Where on earth did the Dutch get the name "Large Tree" from? Why not just Customs Office? In the seventeenth century a very big and heavy pole was laid, next to the Customs Office, straight across in the water of the canal. The intension was to enforce declarations.

Right from you, the eastern side of Kali Besar to the north, is holy ground. Here the Batavia Castle was founded by the Dutch about the year of 1610. In the 18th century the castle was expanded to an enormous size. This gigantic fortress was the logistic, administrative and military centre of the Dutch East-India Company, VOC, in the Far East. The Company became bankrupt in 1799 and between 1795 and 1805 the Dutch demolished their castle without any sense of history.

Suggestion

Leave the bridge behind you and start a walk along Kali Besar Timur/East. It is wise to drink some mineral water from time to time, because weather is awfully hot and the atmospheric purity is not that great. Realize that, while walking along the quay of Kali Besar Timur, Kali Besar East, you have the opportunity to take nice pictures of Dutch colonial offices along Kali Besar Timur of course, but please keep in mind the old offices present at the other side, along Kali Besar Barat. These buildings are very much worth your photographic attention again.

Consulted literature

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https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:COLLECTIE_TROPENMUSEUM_Verkeersdrukte_bij_een_ophaalbrug_in_de_benedenstad_van_Batavia_TMnr_10021605.jpg (picture 1a)
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Kali Besar circa 1870

Custom House seen from Chicken Market Bridge

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:COLLECTIE_TROPENMUSEUM_Het_douane_kantoor_aan_de_haven_in_de_benedenstad_van_Batavia_TMnr_60009329.jpg

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